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Client/Matter No.:

GP-302117 (2760/58)

of Pages:

21

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PATENT Case No. <u>GP-302117</u> (2760/58)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re patent ap	pplication of:	
JEFFI	REY M. STEFAN, ET AL.)
Serial No.:	10/077,013) Examiner LY, NGHI H.
Filed:	FEBRUARY 13, 2002) Group Art Unit: 2686
	HOD FOR BROADCAST USING CONVEX HULLS) Conf. No.: 1333

APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22202-1450

Dear Sir:

Appellants respectfully present their Brief on Appeal as follows:

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1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Assignee General Motors Corporation, a corporation having an office and a place of business at 300 Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan, 48265-3000.

2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant and the undersigned attorneys are not aware of any appeals or any interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or having a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

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3. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the application and claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, 20 and 21 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Wakamatsu, United States Patent 6,819,268 ("Wakamatsu") while claims 4-6, 12-14, 18 and 19 stand finally rejected as unpatentable over Wakamatsu in view of Park, United States Patent 5,627,549 ("Park"). Claim 22 stands finally rejected as unpatentable over Wakamatsu in view of Stewart, United States Patent 6,546,257 ("Stewart"). Claims 1-22 are on appeal. See, the Appendix.

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4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All previously filed amendments have been entered in the application.

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5. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

A method of providing information to a mobile vehicle user includes receiving broadcast information at the mobile vehicle, wherein the broadcast information comprises information location coordinate data. The method further determines whether the information location coordinate data resides within a convex hull and presents the broadcast information to the mobile vehicle user based on the determination. See page 15, lines 4-11.

A convex hull 210 is defined as the smallest convex polygon for which each point in the polygon is either on the boundary or in its interior. See, page 10 lines 6-7. Points of the polygon form a set of coordinates representing an area in which a mobile vehicle user often drives. See, page 10 lines 7-9.

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6. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Are claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, 20 and 21 anticipated by Wakamatsu under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)?

Are claims 4-6, 12-14, 18 and 19 unpatentable over Wakamatsu in view of Park under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)?

Is claim 22 unpatentable over Wakamatsu in view of Stewart under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)?

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7. ARGUMENTS

A. Claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Wakamatsu

The §102(e) rejection of claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, 20 and 21 has been traversed. In order to maintain the §102(e) rejection of claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, 20 and 21, each and every element of the claimed invention must be disclosed by the reference in at least as great detail as claimed. Because Wakamatsu does not disclose, at a minimum, "determining whether the information location coordinate data resides within a convex hull" as claimed in claims 1, 9, 17, and 21, the §102(e) rejection must fall to those independent claims, as well as claims 2-3, 7-8, 10-11, 15-16 and 18-20 depending directly or indirectly from claims 1, 9 or 17, respectively.

Wakamatsu does not disclose use of a convex hull, use of a polygon, use of a convex polygon, or even the boundary of a polygon at all. The Examiner's citations to Wakamatsu illustrate the Examiner's misconceptions regarding what a convex hull is and represents.

The Examiner cites the following selection (from column 2) of Wakamatsu as disclosing a convex hull:

wehicle detected by the vehicle position detection section. According to this feature, in the course of travel, it is possible to selectively extract for display the information relevant to the area corresponding to the current position of the vehicle.

As disclosed, Wakamatsu relies on the area corresponding to the *current* position of the vehicle. (emphasis added). In contrast, the claimed invention relies on a <u>convex hull</u>. The specification defines a convex hull as the smallest convex polygon for which each point in the polygon is either on the boundary or in its interior. See, specification, page 10, lines 6-7.

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Those of ordinary skill in the art recognize that one customary definition of a "convex hull" is "For a set S in space, the smallest convex set containing S. In the plane, the convex hull can be visualized as the shape assumed by a rubber band that has been stretched around the set S and released to conform as closely as possible to S." See, e.g. the definition of "convex hull" at dictionary.com.

Thus, definition of a convex hull requires multiple points to define the polygon – these points are not the current location of the vehicle, as disclosed by Wakamatsu, but rather represent an area in which a mobile vehicle user often drives. Wakamatsu simply does not disclose use of a convex hull to filter broadcast information. Wakamatsu's disclosed "area" does not read on "convex hull" in contrast to the Examiner's allegations, and one of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize the differences.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, 20 and 21 is requested.

B. Claims 4-6, 12-14, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wakamatsu in view of Park

The §103(a) rejections of claims 4-6, 12-14, 18 and 19 are traversed.

Each of claims 4-6, 12-14, 18 and 19 depends directly or indirectly from one of claims 1, 9 and 17, and is therefore patentable over the references for at least the same reasons as above.

In addition, Park does not teach or suggest generating a convex hull from the recorded vehicle location coordinates, as alleged by the Examiner, and claimed. At most, Park teaches creating a data record concerning a single geographic point of interest, corresponding to a current location. Park does not teach collecting data relating to a convex hull, and Wakamatsu does not cure this defect. Therefore, the claims are patentable over the combination of Wakamatsu and Park for at least this additional reason.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 4-6, 12-14, 18 and 19 is requested.

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C. Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wakamatsu in view of Stewart

The §103(a) rejection of claim 22 is traversed.

Claim 22 depends directly from claim 21 and is therefore patentable over the references for at least the same reasons as above.

Additionally, Stewart does not teach or suggest wherein the convex hull is determined in response to a plurality of received and stored longitudinal and latitudinal coordinate positions from the GPS unit, wherein the convex hull represents an area in which a mobile vehicle user often drives. At most, Stewart teaches basing a determination on a repeated travel pattern. Stewart does not disclose use of a convex hull however. Wakamatsu does not cure this defect.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claim 22 is requested.

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CONCLUSION

The Examiner's rejections have been obviated by the above remarks. Appellant respectfully submits that claims 1-22 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable consideration and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Dated: AUGUST 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted, JEFFREY M. STEFAN, et al.

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Filed: February 13, 2002

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A method of providing information to a mobile vehicle user comprising:
receiving broadcast information at the mobile vehicle, wherein the broadcast information comprises information location coordinate data;

determining whether the information location coordinate data resides within a convex hull; and

presenting the broadcast information to the mobile vehicle user based on the determination.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the broadcast information is received from a broadcast service selected from a group consisting of a radio data service, a radio broadcast data service, a satellite broadcast service, a radio broadcast service, and a wireless communications broadcast service.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the information location coordinate data comprises a longitude and a latitude associated with the broadcast information.
 - 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising: recording a plurality of vehicle location coordinates; and generating the convex hull from the recorded vehicle location coordinates.
 - The method of claim 4 further comprising:
 updating the convex hull based on a coordinate input.

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- 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the coordinate input is selected from a group consisting of a current vehicle location coordinate, a previous vehicle location coordinate, a recorded vehicle location coordinate input, a collection period, a collection frequency, a vehicle location coordinate retention period, a global positioning service quality indicator, and a user location coordinate input.
 - 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising: transferring the broadcast information to a vehicle presentation manager; rendering the broadcast information with the vehicle presentation manager; and sending the broadcast information to a presentation device.
- 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the presentation device is selected from a group consisting of a visual display, an audio device, and an audio-visual display device.
- 9. A computer usable medium including a program for providing information to a mobile vehicle user comprising:

computer program code to receive broadcast information at the mobile vehicle, wherein the broadcast information comprises information location coordinate data;

computer program code to determine whether the information location coordinate data resides within a convex hull; and

computer program code to present the broadcast information to the mobile vehicle user based on the determination.

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- 10. The computer usable medium of claim 9 wherein the broadcast information is received from a broadcast service selected from a group consisting of a radio data service, a radio broadcast data service, a satellite broadcast service, a radio broadcast service, and a wireless communications broadcast service.
- 11. The computer usable medium of claim 9 wherein the information location coordinate data comprises a longitude and a latitude associated with the broadcast information.
- 12. The computer usable medium of claim 9 further comprising:

 computer program code to record a plurality of vehicle location coordinates; and

 computer program code to generate the convex hull from the recorded vehicle
 location coordinates.
 - 13. The computer usable medium of claim 12 further comprising: computer program code to update the convex hull based on a coordinate input.
- 14. The computer usable medium of claim 13 wherein the coordinate input is selected from a group consisting of a current vehicle location coordinate, a previous vehicle location coordinate, a recorded vehicle location coordinate input, a collection period, a collection frequency, a vehicle location coordinate retention period, a global positioning service quality indicator, and a user location coordinate input.

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15. The computer usable medium of claim 9 further comprising:

computer program code to transfer the broadcast information to a vehicle presentation manager;

computer program code to render the broadcast information with the vehicle presentation manager; and

computer program code to send the broadcast information to a presentation device.

- 16. The computer usable medium of claim 15 wherein the presentation device is selected from a group consisting of a visual display, an audio device, and an audio-visual display device.
- 17. A system for providing information to a mobile vehicle user comprising:

 means for receiving broadcast information at the mobile vehicle, wherein the broadcast information comprises information location coordinate data and at least one data string;

means for determining whether the information location coordinate data resides within a convex hull; and

means for presenting the broadcast information to the mobile vehicle user based on the determination.

18. The system of claim 17 further comprising:

means for recording a plurality of vehicle location coordinates; and

means for generating the convex hull from the recorded vehicle location
coordinates.

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- 19. The system of claim 17 further comprising: means for updating the convex hull based on a coordinate input.
- 20. The system of claim 17 further comprising:

 means for transferring the broadcast information to a vehicle presentation
 manager;

 means for rendering the broadcast information with the vehicle presentation
 manager; and

 means for sending the broadcast information to a presentation device.
- 21. A method of providing information to a mobile vehicle user comprising: receiving broadcast information at the mobile vehicle, wherein the broadcast information comprises information location coordinate data;

determining whether the information location coordinate data resides within a convex hull incorporating data from an in-vehicle GPS; and

presenting the broadcast information to the mobile vehicle user based on the determination.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the convex hull is determined in response to a plurality of received and stored longitudinal and latitudinal coordinate positions from the GPS unit, wherein the convex hull represents an area in which a mobile vehicle user often drives.

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.